

CLAIMS

1. A method for transporting freight comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing freight intended for transport by a carrier having at least one carrier vehicle and a carrier control center for communicating with the carrier vehicle;
 - (b) determining that the carrier vehicle is not available to transport the freight;
 - (c) providing a third party carrier having at least one third party vehicle and a third party control center for communicating with the third party vehicle;
 - (d) determining that the freight can be transported by the third party vehicle of the third party carrier; and
 - (e) communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier dispatch center.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier network management facility.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said third party vehicle comprises a mobile communication terminal for communicating with the carrier control center.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.
6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a terrestrial-based wireless communication system.
7. The method of Claim 1 additionally comprising transporting, prior to the communicating step (e), the freight by the third party vehicle.
8. A method for transporting and tracking freight comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing freight intended to be transported by a carrier having a carrier control center;

- 4 (b) determining that the freight cannot be transported by said carrier;
 (c) determining that the freight can be transported by a third party carrier;
 6 (d) transporting the freight by a vehicle of said third party carrier;
 (e) transmitting to the carrier control center the status of the freight being
 8 transported by said vehicle of third party carrier; and
 (f) transmitting the status of the freight by said carrier control center to a
 10 shipper of the freight.

9. The method of Claim 8 additionally comprising generating, prior to said
 2 transmitting step (e), an indication of the status of the freight.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier
 2 dispatch center.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said carrier control center comprises a carrier
 2 network management facility

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said third party vehicle comprises a mobile
 2 communication terminal for communicating with the carrier control center.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said communicating freight transportation
 2 status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein said communicating freight transportation
 2 status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a terrestrial-based
 wireless communication system

15. The method of Claim 8 additionally comprising contractual arranging, prior to
 2 said determining step (c), for the transportation of freight by said carrier for shipper such that
 said carrier is obligated to transport the freight of the shipper.

16. A method for transporting freight comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) informing a carrier control center that a shipper has freight to be
 transported;
 4 (b) transmitting a first freight-transportation request from said carrier
 control center to a carrier having at least one carrier vehicle for transporting freight;
 6 (c) informing the carrier control center that the carrier cannot transport the
 freight with the carrier vehicle;

8 (d) transmitting a second freight-transportation request from said carrier
control center to a third party control center of a third party carrier having at least one
10 third party carrier vehicle for transporting freight;

(e) transporting the freight by said third party carrier with at least one third
12 party carrier vehicle; and

(f) transmitting freight status information from the carrier control center to the
14 shipper of the freight.

17. The method of Claim 16 additionally comprising determining, prior to step
2 (c), that the carrier cannot transport the freight with the carrier vehicle.

18. The method of Claim 16 additionally comprising tracking, prior to step (f), the
2 freight by the carrier control center for generating freight status information.

19. The method of Claim 16 wherein said carrier control center comprises a
2 carrier dispatch center.

20. The method of Claim 16 wherein said carrier control center comprises a
2 carrier network management facility.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said third party carrier vehicle comprises a
2 mobile communication terminal for communicating with the carrier control center.

22. The method of Claim 16 wherein said communicating freight transportation
2 status from the third party carrier vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.

23. The method of Claim 16 wherein said communicating freight transportation
2 status from the third party carrier vehicle to the carrier control center is via a terrestrial-based
wireless communication system.

24. A system for transporting freight comprising:
2 a carrier dispatch center for transmitting and receiving messages;
a carrier having a carrier vehicle communicatively coupled to the carrier
4 dispatch center;
a third party dispatch center for transmitting and receiving messages; and
6 a third party carrier having a third party carrier vehicle communicatively coupled to
the carrier dispatch center and to the third party dispatch center.

25. The system of Claim 24 additionally comprising a carrier network management facility communicatively engaged with the carrier dispatch center.

26. The system of Claim 24 wherein said third party carrier vehicle includes a mobile communication terminal communicatively coupled to a carrier network management facility.

27. The system of Claim 26 additionally comprising a satellite system for communicatively transferring messages from the third party carrier vehicle to the carrier network management facility.

28. The system of Claim 26 additionally comprising a terrestrial-based wireless communication.

29. A method for providing personnel to furnish services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first organization having first personnel for performing services intended for a requestor of the services and having a first personnel control center for communicating with the first personnel;

(b) determining that the first personnel of the first organization are not available to provide the services requested by the requestor;

(c) providing a second organization having second personnel which are capable of performing the services requested by the requestor;

(d) determining that second personnel of the second organization can perform the services requested by the requestor;

(e) assigning the services requested by the requestor to the second personnel; and

(f) communicating a service status from the second personnel to the first personnel control center.

30. The method of Claim 29 wherein said first personnel control center comprises a personnel dispatch center.

31. The method of Claim 29 wherein said first personnel control center comprises a personnel network management facility.

32. The method of Claim 31 wherein said second personnel communicated with the first personnel control center with a mobile communication terminal.

33. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the
2 second personnel to the first personnel control center is via a satellite.

34. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the
2 second personnel to the first personnel control center is via a terrestrial-based wireless
communication system.

35. A method for allocating services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first organization having at least one first carrier for
2 transporting first personnel to perform services for a requestor of the services and
4 having a first personnel control center for communicating with the first carrier of the
first personnel;

(b) determining that the first personnel of the first organization are not
6 available to provide services requested by the requestor;

(c) providing a second organization having at least one second carrier for
8 transporting second personnel which are capable of performing the services requested
10 by the requestor;

(d) determining that second personnel of the second organization are
12 available to perform the services requested by the requestor;

(e) assigning the second personnel to do the services requested by the
14 requestor; and

(f) communicating a service status from the second carrier to the first personnel
16 control center.

36. The method of Claim 35 wherein said first personnel control center comprises
2 a personnel dispatch center.

37. The method of Claim 35 wherein said first personnel control center comprises
2 a personnel network management facility.

38. The method of Claim 37 wherein said second carrier includes a mobile
2 communication terminal for communicating with the first personnel control center.

39. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the
2 second carrier to the first personnel control center is via a satellite.

40. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the
2 second carrier to the first personnel control center is via a terrestrial-based wireless
communication system.

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40. The method of Claim 29 wherein said communicating service status from the
2 second carrier to the first personnel control center is via a terrestrial-based wireless
communication system.